

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SUVA 00391 01 OF 02 100647Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EUR-12 SOE-02 DOE-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08
/095 W
-----049755 100658Z /10

R 092000Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7143
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 SUVA 0391

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TN, XP
SUBJECT: CHARGE'S FAREWELL VISIT TO TONGA

1. FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED DURING MY RECENT FAREWELL CALLS ON TONGAN LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS:

2. RJUMINATING ON CHARACTER OF MONARCHY IN LAST POLYNESIAN KINGDOM, CROWN PRINCE TUPOUTOA SEES SOME POSSIBLE CHANGES AHEAD. RATHER THAN MAINTAIN SLOW ACCRETION OF POWER AND INFLUENCE, ALREADY NEARLY TOTAL, HEIR TO THRONE BELIEVES THERE WILL BE GRADUAL RELAXATION OF BENEVOLENT GRIP HIS FATHER, KING TUPOU, HOLDS ONCOUNTRY. CHANGE, IF IT COMES, WILL BE GLACIAL, HOWEVER. KING, ACCORDING TUPOOUTOA, WOULD LKKE TO APPOINT MORE COMMONERS TO CABINET IN ORDER DILUTE HISTORICAL DOMINATION BY NOBLES. BUT QUALITY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ELECTED TO FILL RESERVED COMMONER SEATS TOO UNEVEN TO AFFORD MUCH CHOICE; MANY HAVE SHADY PASTS, INCLUDING SEVERAL CONVICTIONS FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SUVA 00391 01 OF 02 100647Z

EMBSZZLEMENT. BUT, HE SAID, OCCUPANTS OF SEVEN NOBLES' SEATS ALSO GENERALLY BELOW CABINET CLASS IN ABILITY, SO SHAKEUP WILL BE DIFFICULT. (ONE FREQUENTLY RUMORED CHANGE IS ELEVATION OF CROWN PRINCE TO PREMIERSHIP, SUPERCEDING AILING UNCLE, APPOINTMENT OF COMMON DAN TUFUI, TALENTED SEC. TO GOVT., AS MIN. JUSTICE AND POLICE, REPLACING GEORGE AKAUOLA, WHO WOULD BE ASSIGNED AS HICOM TO UK.) ASKED HOW TONGAN YOUTH VIEW THRONE,

CROWN PRINCE CRYPTICALLY REPLIED, "PROBABLY I DID AS A YOUNG MAN." HE IS ALL OF 30.

3. A FEW LOWER LEVEL CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE. BUSINESSMAN JACK REICHELMANN, FORMERLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, HAS BEEN DISPLACED BY TUA TAUMOEPEAU, MARRIED TO QUEEN'S YOUNGEST SISTER, AND TOFA TUITA, MARRIED TO KING'S ONLY DAUGHTER, HAS BEEN MADE ASSISTANT TO THE CROWN PRINCE.

4. LARGE DEGREE OF "MODERNIZATION", SOME OF IT UNDESIRABLE AND CULTURALLY DEVITALIZING, IS BOUND TO COME IF OIL DISCOVERED IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES ON TINY ISLANDS. DRILLING NOW UNDERWAY NEAR FAU'AMOTU AIRPORT, AND TONGA SEEMS TO BE MARKING TIME PENDING RESULTS. TWO MORE DRILLING SITES ARE UNDER CONTRACT; IF ALL PROVE DRY DECISION MUST THEN BE MADE ON INVESTMENT IN FOUR REMAINING AREAS OF PROMISE, BUT PROSPECTS SEEMED BRIGHT ENOUGH TO FORMER CHAIRMAN OF WEBB RESOURCES OF COLORADO FOR HIM TO RESIGN TO FORM NEW LOCAL COMPANY, WEBB TONGA, BECOMING ITS MAJOR STOCKHOLDER. TONGAN GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS SHARES, AND SPLIT IS TO BE 60 PER-CENT WEBB TONGA AND 40 PERG NT GOT IF OIL DISCOVERED.

5. TONGA'S ENTLNGLEMENT IN GET-RICH-QUICK SCHEMES, UPON WHICH WE HAVE REPORTED, SHOWS SOME SIGNS OF UNREAVELING. THE SHADY BANK OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, GRANTED A TAX-FREE 99-YEAR MONOPOLY OF COMMERCIAL BANKING IN RETURN FOR UNDERTAKING AN ARRAY OF FLASHY COMMERCIAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS, HAS NOW BEEN TOLD THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SUVA 00391 01 OF 02 100647Z

UNLESS IT STARTS PRODUCING ITS STATUS WILL BE REVOKED, POSSIBLY IN MAY. THE BANK, VISIBLE ONLY ON PAPER, GAINED SOME UNWANTED EXPOSURE WHEN THE CHECKERED BACKGROUND OF PRESIDENT JOHN MEIER, A FORMER HUGHES ASSOCIATE WHO FLED TO CANADA TO AVOID U. S. TAX EVASIN CHARGES, WAS SPREAD OVER A FULL PAGE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER. LOCAJ "MANAGER", AN AUSTRALIAN, HAS SELDOM BEEN SEEN SINCE PUBLICATION. KING TUPOU WAS BANK'S STRONGEST BACKER, AN ENTHUSIASM SHARED BY VIRTUALLY NOONE IN LEADERSHIP, MOST F WHOM BELIEVE IT PROMOTED BY EIER FOR FRADULENT PURPOSES. MANY BELIEVE STORY PRINTED AT INSTIGATION OF HON. TUITA, MIN. OF LANDS, A MAN OF RECTITUDE AND DETERMINATION WHOSE SON MARRIED KING'S ONLY DAUGHTER. WHOLE AFFAIRS IS TONGA'S RIPEST SCANDAL, WHICH IT IS FEARED MAY INHIBIT NEEDED INVESTMENT BY REPUTABLE INTERESTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SUVA 00391 02 OF 02 092357Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EUR-12 SOE-02 DOE-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08
/095 W

-----043704 100658Z /10

R 092000Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7144
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 SUVA 0391

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. GOT ALSO MAY BE ON VERGE OF REVERSING DECISION WHICH REPORTEDLY WOULD HAVE GIVEN JAPANESE CONSORTIUM EXCLUSIVE FISHING RIGHTS IN TONGAN WATERS. IN RETURN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FISH PROCESSING PLANT. SOVIETS HAVE CEASED APPROACHES TO GOT IN RESPECT ON-SHORE FISHING FACILITIES, HAVE TAKEN NO OTHER INITIATIVES PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

7. CHRONIC SHIPPING PROBLEMS HAVE BESET TONGA DURING MY TERM. STILL STALLED Owing TO UNWISE PRIOR COMMITMENT TO DANISH LAURITZEN LINE, IS CONFLICTING, BUT MORE ADVANTAGEOUS, AGREEMENT WITH GERMAN COLOMBUS LINE. IT PRODIES FOR DM 9 MILLION GFR LOAN TO BUILD AN OCEAN-GOING FREIGHTER AS TONGA'S CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL FORUM LINE AND AN INTERISLAND VESSEL, BOTH IN GERMAN YEARDS LOAN IS AT 3/4 PERCENT INTEREST FOR 50 YEARS WITH TEN YEAR GRACE PERIOD. NEW ZEALANDERS, AS MOST INFLUENTIAL FOREIGN PRESENCE IN TONGA, ARE DNEAVORING GET COLUMBUS LINE AS AGENTS GERMAN GOVT. TO BUY OUT LAURITZEN CONTRACT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SUVA 00391 02 OF 02 092357Z

8. VERY ACTIVE RESIDENT NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER, DON HUNN, CORROBORATED MY CONCLUSION THAT PRIME MIN AND CROWN PRINCE, ESPECIALLY LATTER, HAVE SHIFTED VIEWS IN RESPECT TO RE-LIABILITY OF BIG-POWER FRIENDS. EARLIER FEELING, AND CROWN PRINCE HAS HINTED AT THIS ON PAST OCCASIONS, WAS THAT LARGER COUNTRIES WOULD NEVER DEFEND TONGA IN GENERAL CONFLICT, THUS IT BEST HAVE FRIENDLY LINKS WITH ALL -- INCLUDING SOVIETS AND PRC.

(TONGA NOW RECOGNIZES ROC.) DURING THIS VISIT, TUPOUTOA, WHO HANDLES FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON DAY-TO-DAY BASIS, STRESSED THAT HE SEES ANZUS AS TONGA'S ONLY SHIELD. HE HAS BECOME OUTSPOKENLY SUSPICIOUS OF SOVIET, LESS SO OF PRC, INTENTIONS IN THE AREA -- NOTING IN SUPPORT OF THIS THAT ENTIRE TOP LEADERSHIP OF SOVIET NAVY COMPOSED OF PACIFIC FLEET VETERANS.

9. HUNN, WHO HAS DEVELOPED VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PRINCE, CONFIRMED TUPOUTOA'S NEW CONFIDENCE IN ANZUS, OBSERVING THAT PRIOR TO THIS GOT WOULD NOT HAVE PERMITTED ENTRY 200 NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL TROOPS NOW PRESENT ON AID PROJECT, OR RECENT VISIT HEAD OF NEW ZEALAND SECURITY SERVICE (MOLYNEAUX).

10. FINAL ROUND OF CALLS REVEALED NO MOMENTOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN SOMNOLENT LITTLE KINGDOM -- BAR POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR OIL STRIKE -- BUT CONFIRMED THE GOOD HEALTH OF OUR CONNECTIONS WITH THE AFFABLE TONGANS AND FRIENDSHIP THE LEADERSHIP HOLDS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE KING WAS ABROAD SO NO FAREWELL AUDIENCE WAS POSSIBLE.

FLANEGIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RECALL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SUVA00391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780107-0784
Format: TEL
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780385/aaaactzl.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95544cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3380018
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARGE'S FAREWELL VISIT TO TONGA
TAGS: PINT, TN, XP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95544cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014